

June 7, 2004

Dear Colleagues:

The Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA), U.S. Department of Education, will hold its Third Annual **Celebrate Our Rising Stars** Summit, Tuesday to Thursday, October 5-7, 2004, at the Hilton Washington and Towers Hotel in Washington, D.C.

During last year's Summit approximately one hundred parent-delegates participated in what many termed "A very meaningful and helpful learning experience" on parental rights, responsibilities, and opportunities under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). In conjunction with the theme of this year's Summit "**Integrating Essential Elements for English Language Learners' Success**", we will demonstrate how parents are integral to the development and implementation of successful schools, as well as offering the following special "Focus Sessions" for parents, educators and other participants:

- **Special Parental Orientation on the Summit**
- **Parents Helping Parents**
- **Parental Rights and Parent Advocacy (To include OELA'S "Declaration of Rights for Parents under the Law" (See www.ed.gov/rights for preview)**
- **The Drop-out Problem – How Parents Can Help**
- **Building Bridges for Effective Home/School/Community Partnerships**
- **Resources to Support and Enhance Parental Involvement**

We encourage you to include one or more parents in your delegation for this year's Summit. Details regarding registration and lodging for the Summit are available online registration site at <http://www.salemine.com/risingstars3/> and for more information on the role of parents/guardians in the OELA Summit 2004 please contact our Parental Involvement Specialist, James H. Lockhart. (Contact information listed below).

We look forward to seeing you and parents from your area in the Nation's Capitol October 5-7, 2004.

Yours truly,

Maria Hernandez Ferrier, Ed.D.
Deputy Under Secretary and Director

P.S. You may contact our Parental Involvement Specialist as follows:

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